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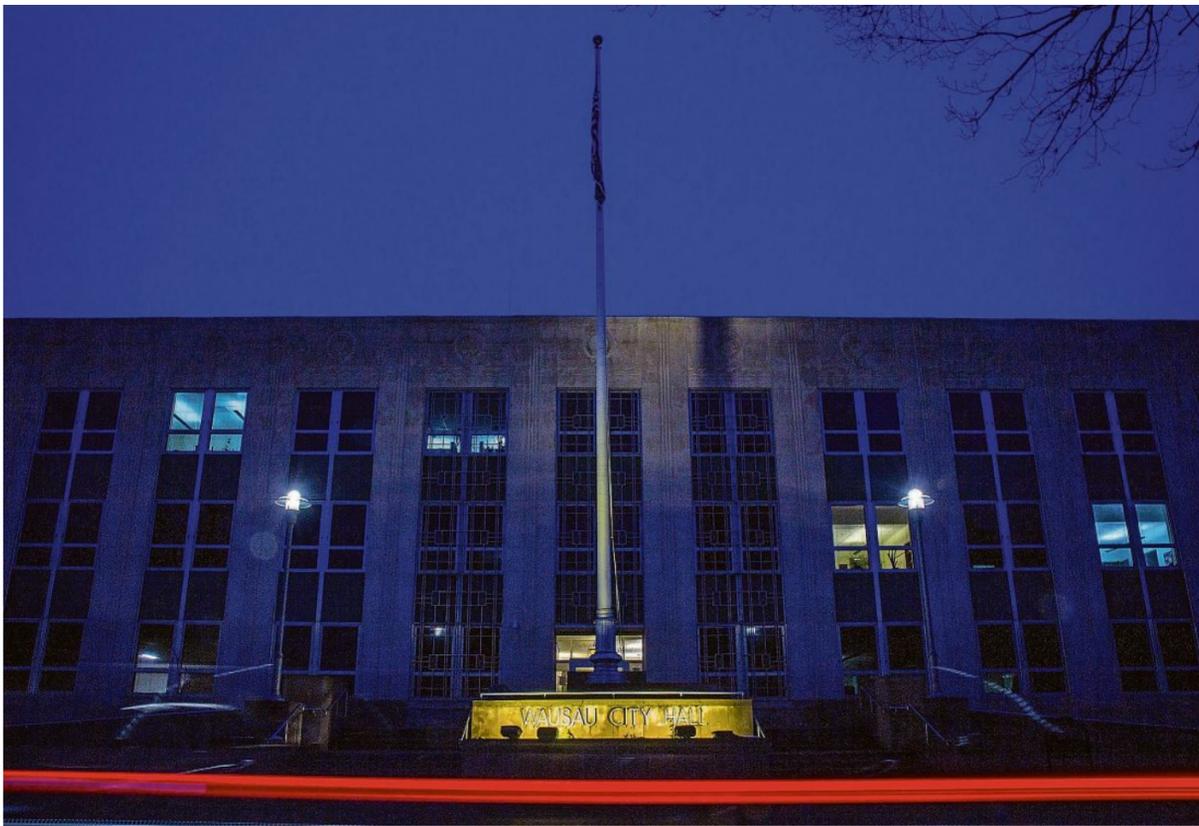
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WAUSAU DAILY HERALD

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Council OKs language for firefighter referendum



The Wausau City Council on Jan. 13 approved the language for an April 7 referendum question that will allow the city to pay for 12 firefighters currently paid for by grant funding. GABI BROEKEMA/WAUSAU DAILY HERALD FILE

Voters to decide department's future funding on April 7

Karen Madden

Wausau Daily Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Wausau voters going to the polls on April 7 will get to decide future funding for the city's fire department.

The Wausau City Council decided Jan. 13 by a vote of 9-2 the language for a referendum question that will allow the city to pay for 12 firefighters currently paid for by grant funding. In 2021 and 2022, the Wau-

sau City Council approved accepting a three-year FEMA SAFER grant and ARPA grant to pay for 12 additional firefighters for the department.

The grants will end in 2026 and the state-imposed property tax limits won't allow city officials to pay for the 12 firefighters and stay under the limit.

In November, the City Council approved using a

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Health department warns of radon dangers

Nida Tazeen

AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

January is National Radon Action Month and the Marathon County Health Department is urging residents to test their homes for radon gas, a cancer-causing radioactive substance that can accumulate indoors without being noticed, according to a community announcement.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the United States. The agency estimates that radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that forms naturally from the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water.

Testing is the only way to know your risk

Testing for radon is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk, according to the announcement. The EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all floors below the third level of your home, including basements and first and second floors.

In Marathon County, two out of every three homes test above the EPA's recommended action level for radon, according to the announcement.

Radon test kits are inexpensive and easy to use. They can be ordered online through the Marathon County Health Department's website at <https://www.marathoncounty.gov>.

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6 D.C. Everest students advance in business contest

Nida Tazeen

AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

Six Wausau high school students are headed to a statewide business competition in Milwaukee after winning top honors in the JA Titan Business Challenge, according to a community announcement from Junior Achievement of Wisconsin.

The students from D.C. Everest competed against 130 other students in the event, which was held in December at Northcentral Technical College. The challenge is designed to teach students about business management through an online simulation game.

Challenge first-place winners Xavier May, Zach May and Adam McKaig,

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Above, D.C. Everest students Xavier May, Zach May and Adam McKaig take first place in the JA Titan Business Challenge in December. At right, D.C. Everest's Devin Alves, Luke Auner and Owen Marquardt take second place.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF WISCONSIN





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